THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) As per the existing policy, import of steel is freely allowed. However, provision exists in the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the rules framed thereunder to investigate cases of dumping and levy an additional customs duty, if it is established that such dumping causes material injury to the domestic industry. The Designated Authority under the aforesaid Act has not, as on 05.12.1996, received any petition for imposition of Anti-Dumping Duties on any steel product. As per available information, about 5.85 lakh tonnes of saleable steel was imported during April-August, 1996. The average (C&F) import prices during August, 1996 of some of the categories of steel were as under :

1. Billets (IS-2830; 80/100 mm)	:	255 $/Tonne
2. Wire Rods (IS-2062; 6mm)	:	335 $/Tonne
3. H.R. Coils (3.15mm DD)	:	370 $/Tonne
4. C.R. Coils (0.63 mm DD)	:	520 $/Tonne
5. Tin Plate Prime (OC-size)	:	740 $/Tonne

[Translation]

Mid Air Collision

3057. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. RAM KRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the relatives of the persons killed in the mid air collision on November 12, 1996 had to face a lot of difficulties as there was no proper arrangement at the Indira Gandhi International Airport for providing requisite information to them;

(b) whether incidents of misbehaviour with the relatives of the daceased by the authorities concerned at the above airport have also been noticed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Immediately on receipt of information regarding the mid air-collision, a Control Room was established at IGI Airport by Airports Authority of India and all necessary arrangements like providing information about accident victims, sitting arrangements, serving of refreshments and transportation of next of kin/relatives of accident victims to the crash site/ hospitals were made.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Reserved Posts

3058. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog of reserved posts for SCs/STs and OBCs in his Ministry as on January, 1996;

(b) the extent to which the backlog has been cleared so far; and

(c) the time by which the rest of the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 330 SC, 490 ST and 400 OBC posts are lying vacant as reserved posts as on 1st January, 1996.

(b) 114 SC, 82 ST and 89 OBC posts have been filled up so far.

(c) Requisitions for filling the backlog vacancies have already been sent to UPSC/SSC/Employment Exchange etc. Special Recruitment Drives have been launched to clear the backlog but it is not possible to precisely indicate the date by which these backlog vacancies could be filled since recruitment action is to be taken by various undertakings and fulfilment of procedural requirements.

Profit/Loss on Serials

3059. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the popular serials telecast on Doordarshan weekly, bi-weekly or more often on Doordarshan during 1995-96;

(b) for how long each of them was or is being telecast; and

(c) the profit/loss earned in respect of each of them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Introduction of Direct Train between Mysore and Varanasi

3060. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a diract train service between Mysore and Varanasi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from the pilgrims in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said train sarvica is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) :(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

Use of Hubli Aerodrome

3061. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to ensure use of Hubli Aerodrome; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hubli Airport has facilities to sustain 50 seater aircraft operations. NEPC airlines which operated scheduled flights to Hubli from 17-4-1994 to 20-8-1995 discontinued flights, probably due to lack of adequate traffic. It is upto the airlines concerned to decide whether or not to fly, depending upon the volume of traffic and the economics of the operation.

Telephone Advisory Committees

3062. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted the State-wise or circle-wise Telephone Advisory Committees (TAC) after the expiry of terms of the previous committees, including MTNL Advisory Committees for Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether Members of Parliament and State Legislatures and the names sponsored by them are given representation on TACs as a matter of policy; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not including Members of Parliament and State Legislatures in the TAC for MTNL, Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir. Telephone Advisory Committees for one hundred field units have been constituted after expiry of their terms, till date. The term of TACs for Mumbai & Delhi has not yet expired.

(b) Yes Sir. Hon'ble M.Ps are included in the TAC if they are sponsored by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The names sponsored by Members of Parliament and State Legislatures are duly considered.

(c) One MLA has already been nominated in the TAC for MTNL Mumbai. Nominations of M.Ps for the TAC, MTNL Mumbai were not received from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Licences for Aluminium Plant in Orissa

3063. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give licence to any company for Aluminium Plants in Langigarh in Kalahandi District of Orissa;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b). In order to encourage private sector investment in the aluminium sector, aluminium metal and its downstream products have been exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing. However, Langigarh deposit is the proposd bauxite linkage for 100% Export Oriented Alumina producting unit for which Government has granted Letter of Intent to M/s Karnataka Telecables. The project has been at present kept in abeyance by the Company because the company felt that the bauxite deposits at Langigarh are inadequate to meet the requirement for the entire life span of the Alumina project.

(c) Does not arise.

Performance of Private Airlines in the Domestic Sector

3064. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of private airlines in the domestic sector in the wake of opening of civil aviation for private participations;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of action plan worked out to ensure that both public and private sector perform efficiently and profitably and harness the potential available in the country; and

(d) the details of steps taken/proposed to strengthen infrastructure network/operational facilities for efficient operation of airlines to cater to the ever increasing traffic in the domestic and international sector?